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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AmEmbassy RANGOON

358  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 13, 1960  
DATE

REF :

RMD-1771-10

7	ACTION	DEPT
For Dept.		
Use Only		

25X1

SUBJECT: Foreign Minister's Remarks on Diplomatic Immunity and Communist Interference in Burmese Elections

Executive Record

60-734

During a call by Army Secretary Brucker upon Foreign Minister U Chan Tun Aung on January 8, at which Ambassador Snow was also present, the Foreign Minister took the occasion to speak out strongly against the prevailing concept of diplomatic immunity and expressed shock at the actions of the Soviet Embassy which the Kuznetsov articles had revealed. The Foreign Minister, who serves concurrently as Minister of Judicial Affairs, also asserted that he had just received information that the Communists were intervening in the current election campaign. At the Ambassador's dinner for Secretary Brucker that same evening, he made a similar statement, although in this case he laid the charge specifically to the Chinese Communists. A copy of the Memorandum of Conversation covering Secretary Brucker's call on the Foreign Minister, prepared by Ambassador Snow, is forwarded as Enclosure No. 1 to this Despatch.

The Embassy is unable to say whether the Foreign Minister's remarks regarding diplomatic immunity have any significance beyond an expression of his concern at the moment over evidence of improper activities on the part of local Communist embassies. With regard to his statements about Chinese Communist intervention in elections, it is of interest to note that the Reporter, a Burmese-language newspaper with strong Stable Party connections, has published similar charges. On December 30, the Reporter accused the Chinese Embassy in Rangoon of urging local Chinese to give support to NUF candidates, or to Clean AFPFL candidates where the NUF was not strong. Following a denial of the Reporter charges by the Chinese Embassy, the paper on January 7 published a further indictment which it dared the Chinese Embassy to deny. In this indictment, the Reporter charged the Chinese Communists with planning during the Korean War to seize the northern portion of Burma with the help of Burmese Communists; giving refuge and support to Burmese Communist leaders including Naw Seng; training Kachin rebel leader Marang La Dee in Yunnan; restricting the movement of the Burmese Consul in Kanning despite free movement allowed to the Chinese Consul in Lashio; giving financial and other assistance to the NUF through the Chinese Communist Embassy during the 1956 elections; using loans by Bank of China to convert local Chinese to Communist cause; and through local pro-Communist Chinese organizations giving help to the Clean Party in the recent municipal elections.

RTEwing: gw: dv  
REPORTER

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STATE review(s) completed.

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From Rangoon

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For the Ambassador:

Richard T. Ewing  
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum of Conversation
2. Translation of Jan. 7 Article  
from Reporter

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: U Chen Tun Aung, Burmese Foreign Minister  
Secretary of the Army Brucker  
Ambassador William P. Snow  
Lt. General Golglazier  
Colonel Seppious

Date: January 8, 1960

Subject: Diplomatic Immunity

We paid a courtesy call on U Chen Tun Aung, the Foreign Minister, at 11:30 a.m. on January 3rd before going to the Prime Minister's home to lunch.

After the usual exchange of courteous remarks, the Chinese Communist Embassy happened to be mentioned, whereupon I briefly described its high red painted gate and strong gilded gateposts to Secretary Brucker. The Minister promptly remarked that it was constructed and maintained like a fortress rather than as an Embassy. I said yes, and that at least one other was run in the same manner (i.e., the Russian).

This led the Minister into a rather fervent diatribe against the prevailing concept of sovereign immunity as exemplified by such foreign diplomatic redoubts in the center of Rangoon. He had been shocked, he said, at the disclosures contained in the Kasmacheev reports revealing how the Soviet Embassy was organized and operated; moreover, just that morning he had been receiving information to the effect that the Communist Embassies were intervening in the current election campaign. There had not been time to verify these charges; he did not know whether they were true; but if they were they represented a serious violation of Burma's sovereignty. For example, the foreign Communists were even said to have gone so far as to purchase village tea houses.

I remarked that crossroads tea houses were probably the equivalent of newspapers in the country districts. Anyone controlling them could spread propaganda very effectively.

The Minister thought that the whole concept of immunity and diplomatic privilege ought to be re-examined. He referred to such an effort having been proposed at the UN but the Soviet Bloc delegations were seeking to hamper it.

Secretary Brucker, with the case of the [redacted] in Washington in mind as well as Soviet Bloc abuses, developed the theme further and agreed that a re-examination was in order. He alluded to the [redacted] in Washington as an example of activity well beyond acceptable diplomatic practice.

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Desp. No. 95  
From Baghdad

In a small, newly independent country like Burma, the Minister said, political intervention by powerful foreign interests posed a grave problem. He liked Secretary Brucker's statement that the Communist Embassy type of intrusion did not represent "fair play"; that it was a breach of the rules of decency and of friendly international relations.

On the score of the reliability of his information, I assured him that the Kamecheer intelligence reports were accurate, that they had been meticulously cross-checked both by the Burmese authorities and by ours. They were also right in line with the revelations of various other Soviet defectors, including those of the Russian code clerk in Ottawa, concerning whom the Canadian Government had published a detailed Royal Commission report in 1977.

(NOTE: It remains to be seen whether the Minister will try to clamp down indiscriminately on all Embassies or whether he will be properly selective.)

WFSnow: ajc: gw

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The Reporter  
January 7, 1960.

Red Chinese Assist Clean AFPFL

A statement dated January 3 was issued by the Red Chinese Embassy in Rangoon in connection with the Reporter's news report that under instructions from the Red Chinese Embassy, Red Chinese in the Union of Burma were assisting the Clean AFPFL with funds and organizing for them. The statement declared that the Reporter's charge that the Red Chinese Embassy was interfering in the internal politics of Burma was a fabricated report and written out of spite. (Due to the glorious independence celebrations, the Reporter hopes the Red Chinese Embassy in Rangoon will forgive the Reporter for publishing this three days later - Reporter.)

How loyal to Burma is the Red Chinese Government, which has openly declared to the world that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence should be observed? If we are to investigate whether or not, it has interfered in the affairs of the Union of Burma -----

Mahleinda Plan

(1) The Government of the Union of Burma was the first to accord recognition to the Red Chinese Government, after it had driven out the KMT from China in 1949. After a year of the Red Chinese Government's rule in China, the Korean War broke out. If the Korean War had spread, the Red Chinese prepared the Mahleinda Plan in collaboration with Thakin Than Tun's Communist insurgents to capture Northern Burma, operating from the Yunnan-Burma border. This Mahleinda Plan was captured from Than Tun by the Burma Army. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

Asylum to Insurgents

(2) Once in the latter part of 1949, once in 1950, then once again in 1952 and in 1954, the Red Chinese Communist Party in Red China has up to this day harbored and encouraged CPB leaders such as Bo Than Shwe, Bo Zeyya, Thakin Than Myaing and others. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

Naw Seng

(3) Up to this day, Naw Seng, a Kachin officer and a leader of the KBOO insurgents, has been harboured in Pao-Shan in Yunnan district. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

Marang La Dee

(4) A Kachin leader Marang La Dee, who was the organizer for the CPB Division in Northern Burma, was invited to Yunnan and entertained. He was also indoctrinated and trained. After that Marang La Dee returned to the Kachin State. Last year he surrendered to the Government. At present, he is a Parliamentary candidate from Myithyina West constituency. The Kachin leader Marang La Dee has ample evidence. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

The above four are examples of interference by the Red Chinese either as a Government or as a Red Chinese Communist Party in the affairs of the country by giving assistance to the rebels who are revolting against the legally established Union Government. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

#### Two Kinds of Consul Generals

(5) The Burmese Consul General, who has his Consulate in Luning in the Yunnan area, Red China, has not been permitted freedom of movement. If he wishes to purchase any goods, goods are sent to his house. If he wishes to travel he has to travel in the company of Red Chinese officials. The Red Chinese Consul General in Lashio, however, has traveled about in Bhamo and Myittha, and has also invited Chinese people from Bhamo, Myittha and Nankhan to his Consulate in Lashio to hold political discussions and to give instructions. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny these interferences in the political and economic sphere of the Union?

#### Their Compatriots-The Red Socialists

(6) The Union Government is aware that the Red Chinese have given every assistance and have very close relations with the Red Socialist Party which is the above-ground Communist Party in Burma. This is also known by the Burmese Army, the Intelligence Branch, the Police Department, the newspapers, and political circles. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

#### Funds

(7) During the 1956 General Elections, they assisted the Burma Workers Party and the MUF with funds to contest the General Elections. There had been accusations that these groups have received funds either directly or indirectly from the Red Chinese Embassy and the Red Chinese. This information was widespread in the country. The charge that the Red Chinese Government, at the Red Chinese Government's Embassy in Rangoon, or the Red Chinese associations which are under the influence of the Red Chinese Embassy in Rangoon, have given financial aid to the above-ground Communist opposition, is substantiated by the fact that these agencies have given assistance to the rebels who are revolting against the legal Government. It is not a fabricated piece of news. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

#### Buying Up Followers

(8) When the Red Chinese took over the Government in China in 1949, they seized the Government Bank. The Chiang Kai-shek Government had thousands of lakhs in the Bank of China and the Bank of Communications in Rangoon for purchasing rice from Burma. These funds were also seized by the Red Chinese Government. An indirect way of converting the White Chinese in Burma into Red Chinese was to give loans running into lakhs of kyats to schools, towns and other associations under the influence of the Red Chinese. The Red Chinese committees in various parts of the country which are under the control



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From Rangoon

of the Red Chinese Embassy have given out low interest loans to the Chinese who accept the organization of the Red Chinese. In this way Red Chinese foodstalls, etc., increased in mushroom growth in various parts of Burma. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

### Assistance to the Clean AFPFL

(9) During the last Municipal Elections in various parts of the country, Red Chinese associations gave funds and manpower assistance to the Clean AFPFL. Such examples are in Yanangyoung and in Pyinsana. The Red Chinese Government, or the Red Chinese Government's Embassy in Rangoon, or the Red Chinese Communist Party, or the Red Chinese associations under the control of the Red Chinese Embassy have openly given assistance to the above and underground Communist parties. They gave assistance either in funds or in manpower to the Clean AFPFL which dared to ally itself with the above-ground Communists to form the Government. This is nothing strange. If they can give assistance to the rebels, it is a simple matter to give assistance to the Clean AFPFL, which is within the confines of Democracy. The whole world is aware of the fact that big Communist countries have directly or indirectly interfered in the affairs of small countries. It is old news that the Red Chinese have interfered in the internal politics of Burma. It will be first-class news if the Red Chinese did not interfere. Does the Red Chinese Embassy still obstinately wish to deny this?

If the Red Chinese Embassy is going to issue another statement, the Reporter is prepared to publish it. It will not be necessary to send threatening letters, photographs or used toilet paper. When On Myint of the Reporter was News Editor in the Nation, he attended Prime Minister U Nu's Press Conference, and he together with U Law Yone raised many questions on Red Chinese interference in the internal affairs of Burma. A day or two after the Press Conference, photographs of U Law Yone, and On Myint taken at the Press Conference, were decapitated with a razor blade by the Red Chinese and the two heads were sent in an enclosed envelope to the Nation press as a threat. On another occasion, a used toilet paper bearing some Chinese characters was also enclosed in an envelope and sent to the Nation.